

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2688

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, VS, VN

SUBJECT: DRV DIPLOMAT'S REMARKS CONCERNING REUNIFICATION

REF: PARIS 19574

1. WHILE VISAS WERE BEING PREPARED FOR DRV ADVANCE TEAM(REFTEL), VIETNAMESE DIPLOMAT PHA NGAC CONVERSED WITH EMBOFF WHO HAD KNOWN NGAC WHEN BOTH WERE INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE ACT D THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET. NGAC DISCUSSED THE NEW CABINET AND STRESSED THE ROLE IN IT OF SOME OF THE SOUTHERN FIGURES, SUCH AS WITH PHAM HUNG (FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER), PHAT (THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER), MADAME BINH (MINISTER OF EDUCATION), AND FORMER PRG NEGOTIATOR HIEN (MINISTER OF CULTURE). HE SAID THAT PHAM HUNG HAD NO PORTFOLIO, MERELY HAD THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER POSITION. HE ALSO SAID THAT PHAM HUNG WOULD NO LONGER HAVE ANY SPECIAL ROLE VIS-A-VIS THE SOUTH "SINCE VIETNAM IS NOW COMPLETELY UNIFIED". PRESENT MINISTRIES WOULD NOW FUNCTION TO EXERCISE CONTROL OVER ACTIVITIES WITHIN THEIR PURVIEW IN THE SOUTH AS WELL AS IN THE NORTH. THE MINISTRY OF

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INTERIOR WOULD HAVE THE SAME ROLE OVER THE SOUTHERN

PROVINCES AS OVER THE NORTHERN PROVINCES OR OVER THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF SAIGON AS IT DID OVER THOSE OF HANOI AND HAIPHONG.

2. EMBOFF NOTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE, NDRTH AND SOUTH, HAD PREVIOUSLY SAID THAT THERE WERE CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DIFFERENCES BETEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH CALLING APPARENTLY FOR A DIFFERENT AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL SYSTEM, AT LEAST FOR A TIME. NGAC SAID THIS WAS TRUE BUT THE DIFFERENCES WOULD BE FAIRLY RAPIDLY REDUCED, AND IN THE MEANTIME WOULD BE HANDLED BY PERSONNEL IN THE SAME MINISTRIES. NGAC NOTED THAT ALREADY PERSONNEL WORKING IN PRG MINISTRIES HAD BEEN SENT NORTH TO ASSUME ROLES WITHIN THE UNITED GOVERNMENT. DINH BA THI'S APPEARANCE THIS YEAR IN NEW YORK AS HEAD OF THE UNITED VIETNAM DELEGATION ILLUSTRATED THE USE OF FORMER PRG OFFICIALS ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH DRV OFFICIALS.

2. COMMENT: NGAC'S COMMENTS ARE PERHAPS OF LESS IMPORTANCE AS AN OBJECTIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE FACTS THAN OF THE LINE THE VIETNAMESE CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE. HE WILL BE PRESSMAN IN NEW YORK, AND HAS NO DOUBT BEEN GIVEN A THOROUGH GROUNDING ON THE LINE HE IS EXPECTED TO TAKE CONCERNING THE NEW VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

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